
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Flu Cases Decrease by 43% In Kent County

GRAND RAPIDS – The confirmed number of new flu cases reported this week in Kent County was 127, bringing the season total to 590 cases. This reflects a 43% decrease in the number of new cases this week over last week. Emergency Departments (ED's) in Kent County also reported a slight decline in the percentage of visits due to flu-like illnesses last week. The week ending January 5, 2013, 13.5% of patients in ED's were complaining of flu-like illness. The week ending January 12, 2013, 11.8% of visits were due to flu-like illness. Still, the Kent County Health Department is recommending vigilance and promoting prevention guidelines.

"We are certainly seeing a decrease in the number of new confirmed cases this week," says Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "While this new data is promising, we should not let down our guard. The flu is unpredictable and we could see resurgence. It's not too late to get vaccinated, and we urge everyone to practice preventive measures, such as regular hand washing, to stop the spread of flu." Adults and children with the flu should stay home from school or work until they have been able to keep a normal body temperature for 24 hours, without a fever-reducing medication.

The flu can cause serious complications in pregnant women, people who have weakened immune systems, in the very young and in the elderly. The single best way to protect against the flu is by getting vaccinated. Infants six months of age or younger cannot get a flu vaccine, so it is recommended that family members and people who care for them receive a vaccination. The Health Department has injection (\$25) and nasal mist (\$32) available. Check out our website, <http://www.stickittotheflu.com/> to learn more about flu vaccinations, prevention tips and treatment, or call (616) 632-7200 to make an appointment.

Reporting Date	New Confirmed Cases	2012-2013 Season Confirmed Total
December 18, 2012	5	5
December 26, 2012	107	112
January 2, 2013	130	242
January 8, 2013	221	463
January 15, 2013	127	590

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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